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REPORT

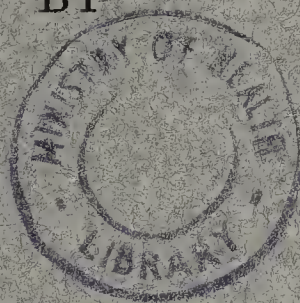
TO THE

1963.1.15

BELLINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the Year 1963

BY



J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

S. CLOUGH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Bellingham :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present **my** Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

In so large and thinly populated a Rural District as Bellingham, changes are gradual and offer little scope for report from year to year, but the record of minor changes and steady improvement in environment has its value. The very character of this area, with its natural attraction of open country, hills and forests, and its great beauty and historic interest, when allied to scattered communities and poor communications renders redevelopment and expansion unlikely and perhaps not particularly desirable. It seems a pity, however, that in a district containing the largest forest in the country, wood products have to be taken elsewhere, when local light industry would be so welcome. As it is, there is limited opportunity for the employment of young people leaving school, especially of girls, and a drift of young people away from the countryside appears inevitable.

It is not surprising that a further loss of population in 1963 has to be recorded, and it is encouraging that the loss from year to year has been small. There is still also a satisfactory proportion of young people, as instanced by a birth rate rather above the national average. In 1962 the infant mortality rate was exceptionally low, and though it was higher in 1963, it was only slightly above the average for the country. The causes of death in general follow the national pattern, except that deaths from respiratory disease are conspicuously few. Again it is seen that the average age at death was high, one third of the deaths occurring in people over 80.

The incidence of infectious disease has changed very much in recent years and in 1963 calls for little comment. Measles was general throughout the country, and in Bellingham there were 33 notifications. Apart from 1 case of pulmonary tuberculosis, a primary infection in a child, no serious disease was notified. Since it was diagnosed and therefore notified in Hexham, a case of typhoid fever occurring in a resident in this Rural District is not included. Infection was acquired on holiday abroad, and though the patient had a

number of contacts engaged in food handling, there was no other case. The tracing and investigation of contacts played its part in this fortunate result, but the main factor was undoubtedly a high standard of personal hygiene among the food handlers concerned.

The building of Council houses in so large a District presents problems of cost and siting, and it is the Council's policy to build as and where need becomes apparent. The old people's houses at Wark and Bellingham and the family houses at Wark were completed during 1963. Further houses for families and old people are being considered for Bellingham, where many old people wish bungalows. As the people in the forestry villages grow older, however, it may be necessary to provide bungalows there for their retirement. The number of older houses improved and reconditioned increases steadily each year, in most cases with the aid of discretionary grants. The modernisation and continuance in use of older property is of particular value in the smaller communities.

The Council's long-term plan for the provision of mains water and modern sanitation wherever cost will allow, is almost complete, and price is the limiting factor to any extension. Two small schemes to supply mains water to Carrycoats and Donkleywood are however under consideration. With the completion of the sewerage and sewage scheme at Kirkwhelpington, the major needs of the District have been met, and the arrangements in the District are adequate. The proposed scheme for Ridsdale has been approved by the Ministry, and should not be long delayed.

The Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, provide a supply that is satisfactory in quality and quantity. The Company undertake the routine sampling of their supply and take any remedial action that may be found necessary. The fluoride content of the water has varied from 0.1 to a maximum of 0.2 parts per million. Plumbo-solvency has not been a problem. The Health Department take samples of water from private and proposed supplies, and give any necessary advice. The information required as to the number of houses supplied from public water mains is contained in the Senior Public Health Inspector's section of the Report.

There is no common lodging house in the Rural District of Bellingham.

The members of the Council continue to take an active interest in the work of the Health Department, and my thanks are due to them and to the Clerk and other officials. The staff of the Department have carried out their duties efficiently.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population, estimated at 30th June, 1963, was 5,300, a decrease of 80 on the previous year.

Death Rate

58 Deaths were registered during 1963, giving a death rate of 12.06 per 1,000 population. The figure for England and Wales is 12.2 per 1,000.

Birth Rate

There were 84 live births during the year, and when an adjustment factor is applied this gives a birth rate of 19.01 per 1,000 population. This is to be compared with the national figure of 18.2 per 1,000.

With 2 still births the still birth rate is 19.3 per 1,000 births, compared with 17.3 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality

3 Infants died under the age of one year, giving an infant mortality rate of 29.7 per 1,000 live births, compared with the national rate of 20.9 per 1,000.

To Summarise :

Live births	.. .. .	84
Rate per 1,000 population	.. .. .	19.01
	<i>(England & Wales 18.2 per 1,000)</i>	
Illegitimate live births..	.. .. .	3
Per cent of total live births	.. .. .	2.97
Still births	.. .. .	2
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	.. .. .	19.3
	<i>(England & Wales 17.3 per 1,000)</i>	
Total live and still births	.. .. .	86
Infant deaths (under one year)	.. .. .	3
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	.. .. .	29.7
	<i>(England & Wales 20.9 per 1,000)</i>	
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	30.8
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate		
(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)		Nil
Early neo-natal mortality rate		
(deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)		Nil

Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	..	..	..	19.3
Maternal mortality Rate per 1,000 total births..	..	..	..	Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

33 Cases were notified.

Erysipelas

1 Case was notified.

Tuberculosis

1 Case was notified during 1963.

Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria

There were no notifications during 1963, and all other infectious diseases were absent.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Bellingham Rural District is 246,645 acres.

The estimated population for 1963 is 5,300.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1963, was 1,736 of which 197 are owned by the Local Authority.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £642.

The rateable value is £151,794.

HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Facilities in the area continue to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle General Hospital, which gives an efficient service.

Ambulance Service

The local ambulance service is provided for the County Council by the Red Cross, and a satisfactory service is

maintained. In addition to the ambulance, a car service is available for suitable cases and is of considerable value in such a large district. Since the passenger train service was discontinued much extra mileage has been run to allow patients to keep hospital appointments and to allow mothers and children to attend clinics, but the use of the service appears to have stabilised now.

During 1961 a call house was established at the British Red Cross Society ambulance depot in Bellingham, at which requests for the ambulance car service are received.

Home Nursing and Health Visiting

The district nurses are all provided with cars and their nursing work continues to be excellent. In spite of the difficulty of arranging for suitable help in a country district, the Home Help Service run by the County Council continues to function satisfactorily. The County Health Visitors work in harmony with the General Practitioners in the area and do much valuable work.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Five Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, staffed by the County Council, operate at Bellingham, Otterburn, Byrness, Kielder and Wark. Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at these centres or is done by the General Practitioner, while all vaccination is carried out by the General Practitioners. The demand for poliomyelitis vaccination has been met, in the age groups eligible, by vaccination at clinics and the surgeries of family doctors.

TABLE 1.

The following table shows the principal statistics for the years 1959—1963.

Year	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births
1959	21.61	7.42	9.6
1960	19.8	10.8	27.9
1961	17.37	12.75	35.7
1962	16.02	11.15	11.5
1963	19.01	12.06	29.7

ANNUAL RETURNS OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS, YEAR 1963

Food Poisoning Notifications Returned to Registrar General

IST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Outbreaks due to identified agents ..	..	..	..	Nil
Outbreaks of undiscovered cause ..	..	..	..	Nil
Single Cases :				
Agent identified ..	..	..	..	Nil
Unknown cause ..	..	..	..	Nil
Total ..				Nil

TABLE II.

Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1963 :—

Notifiable Disease	Males.	Females	Totals
Scarlet Fever.. ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	16	17	33
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Totals	17	18	35

TABLE III.
TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1963 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Bellingham Rural District			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table classifies deaths according to their age groups :—

Age Groups			Males	Females	Totals.
0—1 ..	..	..	3	—	3
1—9 ..	..	..	—	—	—
10—19 ..	..	..	—	—	—
20—29 ..	..	..	—	1	1
30—39 ..	..	..	—	—	—
40—49 ..	..	..	—	1	1
50—59 ..	..	..	5	2	7
60—69 ..	..	..	6	5	11
70—79 ..	..	..	7	9	16
80—89 ..	..	..	5	11	16
90—99 ..	..	..	—	3	3
Totals ..	..	..	26	32	58

INFANT MORTALITY

during year ending 31st December, 1963
29.7 per 1,000 live Births

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

According to Registrar General's Classification.

Causes of Death	1962		1963	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ..	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ..	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ..	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm— Stomach ..	1	—	—	1
11. do. Lung and Bronchus ..	—	—	1	—
12. do. Breast ..	—	1	—	1
13. do. Uterus ..	—	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms ..	4	2	1	4
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	1	1	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	7	4	7
18. Coronary Disease, Angina..	7	2	6	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	2
20. Other heart disease ..	7	3	5	7
21. Other circulatory disease ..	4	3	2	1
22. Influenza	—	—	1	—
23. Pneumonia	1	1	3	—
24. Bronchitis	—	—	—	—
25. Other diseases of respira- tory system	—	—	1	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach & duo- denum	—	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarr- hoea	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	—	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	1	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations..	1	1	—	—
32. Other defined and ill- defined diseases ..	2	—	1	—
33. Motor Vehicle accidents ..	2	—	1	—
34. All other accidents.. ..	1	1	—	—
35. Suicide	—	—	—	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—
	38	22	26	32
	60		58	

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963.

The work of the Department has steadily increased over the years with the advent of new legislation and its subsequent implementation. The provision of new sewerage and sewage disposal schemes, together with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company becoming the statutory water undertaker, has extended positive activities in the refurbishing of properties and the installation of essential amenities.

The main settlement groups are now serviced with water and sewage schemes — two pockets to which consideration of sewerage and sewage schemes will be given in the future are East Woodburn and Stannersburn.

WATER

The position at the time of this report, since the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company, under the Water Order of 1951, became the statutory water undertaker covering this area, is as follows :

Number of dwellings supplied from public mains :

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Properties</i>	<i>Population</i>
Bellingham	333	1,165
Tarset	54	180
Falstone	30	105
Wark	203	708
Otterburn	105	334
Rochester (including Byrness)	76	258
Woodburn	157	516
Kirkwhelpington	67	220
Birtley	38	127
Forestry Commission private supply to Kielder ..	112	392
British Railways private sup- ply to Reeds mouth ..	12	41

Samples

This is referred to in the Medical Officer of Health's section. Where analyses have proved unsatisfactory, follow-up samples have been taken and technical advice given on

problems arising from collection and storage of private sources of supply.

During the year some 12 samples were taken from private sources of supply :

			<i>Probable numbers per 100ml Coliform Bacilli</i>
10 Samples	..	..	0
1 Sample	..	..	50
1 Sample	..	..	17

The Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company took 156 samples from the main water supply in various parts of the area during the year. These were of “excellent” bacteriological quality.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The main settlement groups in the two principal valleys of the North Tyne and Rede have been provided with works of sewerage and sewage disposal :

Local Authority	Bellingham	}	Operational
	Woodburn		
	Wark		
	Birtley		
	Otterburn		
	Kirkwhelpington		
	Ridsdale :		Scheme prepared. Ministry Inquiry, January 1963, Amendments requested.
Forestry Commission	Kielder	}	Operational
	Butteryhaugh		
	Stonehaugh		
	Byrness		
	Lewisburn		
	Camping Site		

Private Septic Tanks

A further 12 treatment plants have been installed.

HOUSING

Local Authority building : 7 houses completed.
 Private building : 1
 Other Housing Authority : 1

Two factors, namely, the limitation of rural transport and the steady increase in the number of aged persons, may be part reason for the increasing number of applicants for Council houses at Bellingham. People gravitate to a centre where there is a measure of transport and a greater degree of social amenities. The position is exercising the mind of the Council with a view to further Council housing in Bellingham.

There has been a further fall off in properties reconditioned under the Hill Farming & Livestock Rearing Acts, but private properties continue to be modernised under the House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

Improvement — Reconditioning

16 Applications for Discretionary grants and 1 application for Standard grant were approved.

During the year, financial assistance to grant-aided schemes completed amounted to £4,859.

Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts, 1946-1959

One grant was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Systematic cleansing of the villages and properties along the route has been maintained. The areas covered are :

Bellingham	Wark	Ridsdale
Reedsmouth	Stonehaugh	Great Bavington
Greenhaugh	Birtley	Little Bavington
Kirkharle	Falstone	Rochester
Kirkwhelpington	Kielder	Otterburn
Byrness	East Woodburn	West Woodburn

Tips. There are nine tips in the area situate at :

Birtley	Woodburn	Knowesgate
Otterburn	Falstone	Stonehaugh
Hareshaw	Kielder	Byrness

New Tipping area is urgently needed to cover Falstone area.

Employees : 2 loader-drivers and 3 loaders.

Tonnage : 3,154 tons.

The cost of such service is 8.08d. in the £.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

One operator is in the employ of the Council and methods of treatment are those approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Treatments :

Sewers : Regular and systematic treating in Bellingham, Woodburn, Wark, Birtley and Otterburn.

Farms and Business Premises ..	6				
Tips	4				
Other properties	2	Total ..	12		

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958 Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

There are five butchers in the area — three operate slaughterhouses and two buy carcase meat. 100% meat inspection is maintained. 10 slaughterman's licences have been issued.

Analysis of inspection is as under :

Bullocks	47				
Heifers	104				
Pigs	49				
Sheep	473				
Calves	1	Total ..	674		

Condemned :

Bovine :

- 11 Livers—Cirrhosis and Flukes.
- 1 Pr. Lungs—Parasites.
- 1 Head and Tongue—Tuberculosis.

Other Foods :

Other foods examined and found unfit for human consumption :—

2 tins Meat	16 tins Tomatoes
7 tins Fruit	2 tins Evaporated Milk
1 tin Peas	1 jar Pickles
2 tins Coffee	3 jars Peanut Butter
1 tin Mixed Vegetables	17 pkts. Cheese
2 tins Beans	1 tin Gravy Salt

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Some 56 premises in the area come within the scope of this legislation. Regular and systematic inspection is maintained.

Food Premises : The following are the types of food premises in the district:

Bakeries	..	..	..	..	2
Butchers	..	..	..	..	5
Cafes ..	..	..	..	..	7
Clubs	..	..	..	..	4
General Dealers (Grocers, etc.)	..			..	18
Public Houses and Hotels	..			..	11
School Kitchens	..	..	..		9

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Five cases were reported where nuisances through pollution were caused. Informal representation resolved these problems.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES :			
Privies and privy ashpits abolished ..	10	—	10
Water closets provided	18	—	18
Number of above for which grant was given (P.H.A. 1936, Sec. 47)	—	—	—
Sanitary bins provided	19	—	19
DRAINAGE :			
New drains constructed	57	—	57
Drains repaired or reconstructed ..	17	—	17
Additional gullies provided	308	—	308
Old gullies replaced	47	—	47
Scullery sinks provided	32	—	32
Scullery waste pipes repaired	39	—	39
Scullery waste pipes trapped	11	—	11
Yards repaired or reconstructed ..	29	—	29

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Housing :

Demolition	46
Improvements and Repairs	613
Verminous premises	9
Water Supply	76
Drainage	306
Factories and Workshops	52
Licensed Premises	129
Refuse Collection and Disposal	302
Rodent Control	46
Infectious Disease	67
Slaughterhouses	567
Shops	261
Fishmongers (vans)	9
Bakeries	65

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	19	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	18	21	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	30	40	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.) ...	5	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	7	7	—	—	—

Part VII of the Act. Sections 110 and 111.

Outwork.

This part is not applicable to this Rural Area.

The standard of environmental hygiene throughout the area continues to improve and the living standard of the population is being steadily raised.

Thanks are accorded to the staff in the Department for their continued loyalty and the support and interest of members of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. CLOUGH,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

